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THE
PROPHECY
OF
G N A T U S

A
BRITISH PROPHET:

Introduced by a

P R E F A C E
OF

ROBERT WARE, Esq;

AND

Set forth with a few NOTES

By the

INTRODUCTOR.

D U B L I N,

Printed by *Joseph Ray* at *Colledge-Green*, for *Samuel Helsham*
Bookseller, at the *Colledge-Arms* in *Castle-street*, 1681.

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ROBERT WALKER

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Printed by Joseph Ray at College Green, for Samuel Holman
Bookseller, at the College Arms in Castle Street, 1811.

THE

PREFACE.

AS Almighty God hath dignified man with the similitude of his own Image, so hath he been pleased of special priviledge to raise some of mankind by extraordinary elevation of spirit above the rest, not only in Natural and Artificial Endowments of Understanding and Perception, but also hath many times infused into them above the sagacity of ordinary gifts, a faculty of foreseeing and declaring unto others fatal events, unperceived by any but themselves, who have therefore been called Prophets; and such a one, Gnatus, the Author of this Prediction seems to have been: who being a Christian, cannot be presumed to have founded his Predictions in *Opocraft* *Deopolcraft*/ or any other *caldre* *healsung*/ or ancient Heathenish Rites or Ceremonies then used, nor with regard to Constellations, or Dominion of Planets, or *Mid heosonlicum wondrum*/ i. e. Prodigies of Heaven. But as Beda terms it, *mid Godcunde*/ or *Godcundre onbypardnasse*/ that is to say, by Divine instinct. Nor did he by *Argon*/ or the juggling artifice of ambiguous expressions, cast a mist about his words, or inwrap them in darkness of

A 2

sense;

The Preface.

sense; but in clear terms sets forth his meaning in the following Prophecy; which being of late casually found, and drawn out of the Archives of Sir James Ware's rich and careful preserved Antiquities, now breaks forth like a Star newly created in the Firmament of Heaven, which draws all the World to look upon it with admiration; and moreover, affords things new and old, that is to say, an Historical Instruction of what is past, as well as Predictions of very fatal events hereafter to be accomplish'd, depending on the behaviour of Nobles, and people practising and maintaining the true Religion against Idolatry, and subduing the lusts and appetites of the flesh.

Re. W.

A Brittish Prophecy in the Sixth Century after Christ: Taken out of an Old Register Book belonging to Rochester, and translated out of the Saxon Character into English, by John Gravener, some time Chaplain to the said Bishop: being named Edmond Gest, Anno 1564

IN the days of *Ethelbert* King of *Kent*, *Augustin* Chief Patron of *Carlem*, that Paiaace being bestowed on him by the King, he bearing his Banner in Proceſſion at his first Entrance into this Isle of *Brittain*, one *Gnatus*, the then Brittish Prophet met him, to whom he thus spake.

You (a) nor your Master have not observed the Masters Precepts, which is this: Let him that is the meanest of you be as Master, and the Master as the meanest. Which Precept, had he that sent you but observed, he nor ye had not fallen. For *Hierusalem* hath fallen out with *Antioch*, and she with her. So likewise hath *Constantinople* with *Rome*, and she with her, from whence thou now comest. Where is then the Peace of Christ, with which thou must qualify the people of this Isle, seeing ye have rented your Saviours seamless Garment? For the light hath shined with in this Isle for many days past; (b) Be thou therefore cautious neither to add nor diminish what hath been already Planted by thy Predecessors within the same, least you and yours become as odious as those that sent you; (c) for Ambition, Pride, and Covetousness, hath already brought in Antichrist sprinkled amongst them, which as yet is insufficient. (d) For another Antichrist is arising to contend with Antichrist; who by little and little, and in space of days shall make them Vassals, and subject to their Power, and so inherit what they now possess. But if you and yours follow their Paths more then Christs, you and your Successors shall be hated as they, by the people of this Isle: (e) then in the height of yours, and their Pomp, through

(a) The Prophet checketh *Augustin* at his first entrance into *Brittain*.

(b) He gives *Rome* a caution not to bring in Popish Ceremonies into the Liturgy.

(c) He shewes what hath brought in Antichrist.

(d) Antichrist against Antichrist, is supposed the Mahumetan Sect against the Roman Sect.

(e) King *H. 8th* his dissolving of the Monasteries, Priories, Abbies, &c.

(f) K.E. 6^{ths}.
Reformati-
on.

(g) Romes ty-
ranny during
Qu. Maries
days.

(h) Qu. Eli-
zabeth.

(i) A warn-
ing to the
Protestant
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keep Unity
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and her de-
vices.

through Vain Glory, Covetousness, and Idolatry; ye and they shall be mowed as the Grass, and wither within the same.

(f) Then *Brittain* shall bring forth a Babe, from whose lips shall flow sweetness: (g) which Antichrist within this Isle shall for five days make it bitter, (h) until a *Judith* shall rise and refresh their senses; who hath heard, and will not hear; seen, and will not see; who hath tasted, and yet doth not taste; who have smelt, and yet were not sensible of its fragrantcy; who have held, and yet let it go.

(i) Thus Truth being planted, and spring up afresh, shall never wither within this Isle, unless her Nobles and her People wilfully follow strange Gods, through the lusts and appetites of the flesh; and then become the Children of Wrath.

To prove that there was a Wise Man with whom the British Clergy Converged; and is supposed to be the said Gnatus.

The Au-
thors to
prove that
the Clergy
in those days
did not own
Rome, nor her
Tenents, viz.

*Beda, Stow,
Baker, Fuller,
and Lambard.*

For Carlem
to be the
Kings chief
Seat. See
Lambard's
Perambula-
tion of Kent.

1. That *Ethelbert* was Contemporary with *Augustin*, appears by the Ecclesiastical History of Venerable *Beda*; and that he had communion in a Synod with *Augustin* in the time of *Dynoth* Abbot of *Bangor*: There also it appeareth what was done in this Synod. *Beda Lib. 2. Cap. 2.*

2. *Carlem* was at that time the chief City of *Kent*, and as the Author of the British History affirmeth, was Built by *Rudhurdibras*, or as some Copies have it, *Lud Rudibras*, almost nine hundred years before the Incarnation of Christ; and the same is called by *Henry of Huntingdon*, *Carr Kent*, in his recital of ancient British Cities.

3. *Banner*, this *Banner* was the Cross and Image of Christ, which *Beda* calls, *Lib. 1. Cap. 25. Cristes Bæde* Taken *silfrene* and *Cristes mael mid him*.

4. *Gnatus*,

4. *Gnatus*, so far as the probability of conjecture may administer credit, this *Gnatus* was the holy and prudent Anchorite, with whom (as *Beda* in his Ecclesiastical History saith) seven Brittish Bishops, and many most Learned men came to advise, when they were to consult with *Augustin*; For these are the words of *Beda*, that they came *aerst to sumum Ancram se was mid him halig and wis* / i. e. they came to a certain Anchorite, whom they reputed holy and wise. Hence it may be observed, that the Brittish Church was a well Constituted Church, at and before the time of *Augustine's* first coming; which could on the sudden, out of the Kingdom of *Kent*, assemble seven Bishops, and so many most Learned Men.

F I N I S.

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